

Issue NE-CW2003, released May 19, 2003, by the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA . For more information contact us at: 100 Centennial Mall North, Suite 298, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-437-5541, e-mail at nass-ne@nass.usda.gov, Internet at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.

Agricultural Summary: For the week ending May 18, 2003, limited rainfall and drier soils provided producers the opportunity to move ahead with spring planting, according to USDA’s Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Warmer temperatures continue to be needed to boost crop development and dry out wet soils.

This release is based on reports and data from FSA county directors, county extension educators, NOAA, and the High Plains Climate Center. Current county specific comments plus current and historic PDF files of Weather and Crop reports can be found at: http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/cmts_cur.htm

Weather Summary: Temperatures ranged from three degrees below normals in the east to five degrees above normals in the west for the week. Precipitation was statewide with most stations reporting less than .50 inch

Field Crops Report: Corn planting moved ahead last week to 77 percent complete. Last week’s drying weather allowed producers to progress to less than a week behind last year at 91 percent and average at 89. Thirty-one percent of the fields had emerged, compared with 47 last year and 50 average.

Soybean planting also made good progress with 22 percent complete. This is also slightly less than a week behind the

41 percent last year and 46 average. Three percent of the fields had emerged, compared with 8 last year and 13 average.

Sorghum planting was underway in several areas of the state with 8 percent of the acreage seeded. This compares with 18 percent last year and 25 average.

Wheat condition rated 8 percent poor, 31 fair, 44 good, and 17 excellent, above last year and the 5 year average. Ninety-one percent of the crop had jointed, a week ahead of last year at 77 and average at 80. Wheat fields were heading out across the southern third of the state with 10 percent headed statewide. This is behind the 15 percent last year and 19 average.

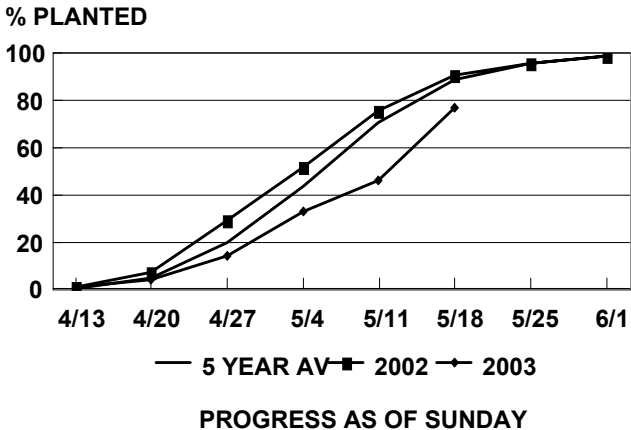
Alfalfa conditions rated 2 percent very poor, 5 poor, 27 fair, 47 good, and 19 excellent. First cutting activities have begun with 3 percent harvested to date. This compares with 3 percent last year and 4 average.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report: Pasture and range land condition rated 10 percent very poor, 20 poor, 42 fair, 24 good, and 4 excellent. Condition remains below a year ago and average. Pastures continue to recover from the drought but show slow growth in some areas. Cattle are being moved to pastures.

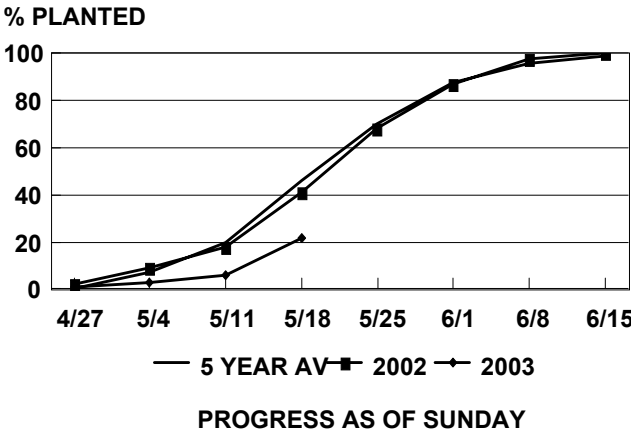
Progress and Conditions: By District, Nebraska, as of May 18, 2003

Item	Agricultural Statistics Districts								State	Last Week	Last Year	Average	
	NW	NC	NE	C	EC	SW	SC	SE					
% Corn Planted	80	78	68	68	80	71	84	87	77	46	91	89	
% Corn Emerged	23	11	21	25	38	15	28	55	31	13	47	50	
% Sorghum Planted	0	5	9	0	15	3	4	10	8	2	18	25	
% Soybeans Planted	0	13	12	16	25	11	29	28	22	6	41	46	
% Soybeans Emerged	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	6	3	0	8	13	
% Wheat Jointed	86	94	92	90	80	98	94	93	91	71	77	80	
% Wheat Headed	1	3	4	5	4	16	23	19	10	1	15	19	
% Oats Planted	96	100	100	100	98	100	100	100	99	96	100	99	
% Oats Emerged	63	99	100	94	91	100	97	96	93	86	96	94	
% Alfalfa 1 st Cutting	0	0	2	5	3	1	1	11	3	0	3	4	
Days Suitable for Fieldwork	4.4	5.3	3.6	4.8	3.5	4.4	5.2	4.0	4.3	1.8	5.1	5.3	
Topsoil Moisture	- % Very short	0	2	0	0	0	7	0	0	1	1	16	9
	- % Short	12	2	0	0	1	13	1	2	5	4	21	19
	- % Adequate	85	96	73	70	77	76	99	90	85	77	61	65
	- % Surplus	3	0	27	30	22	4	0	8	9	18	2	7
Subsoil Moisture	- % Very Short	17	8	1	4	5	37	3	13	12	11	20	13
	- % Short	57	13	23	22	25	43	42	49	33	34	35	21
	- % Adequate	26	79	63	73	70	20	55	37	53	52	44	61
	- % Surplus	0	0	13	1	0	0	0	1	2	3	1	5

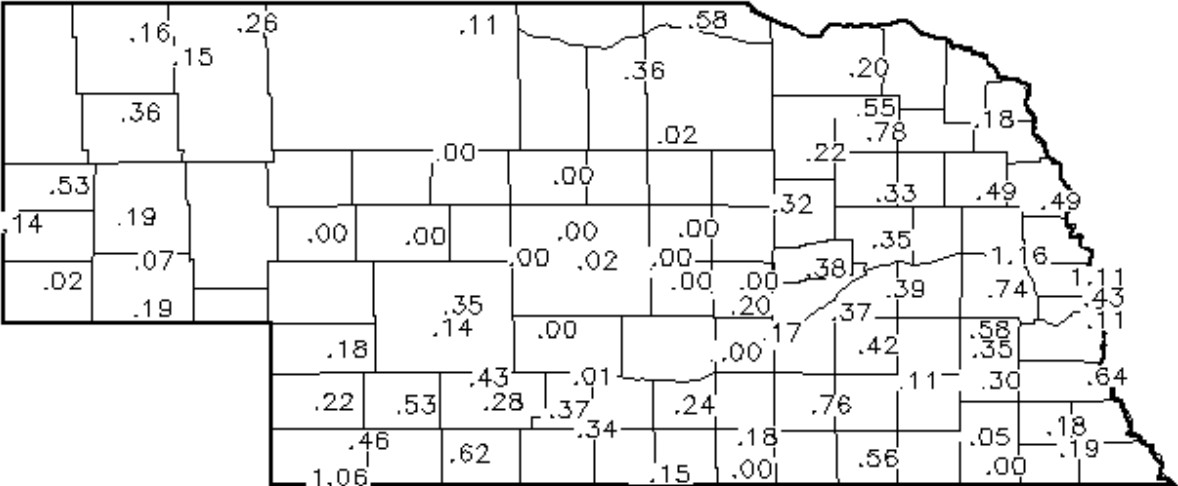
CORN



SOYBEANS



Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending May 18, 2003



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 - May 18, 2003

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.18	.22	.46	.04	0.46	.45	.24	.24
Total since April 1	3.94	6.17	6.76	7.28	6.48	6.10	5.32	5.97
Normal since April 1	3.49	3.97	4.70	4.49	5.04	3.78	4.28	5.10
Total as % of normal	112%	156%	143%	162%	128%	162%	123%	117%

Source: High Plains Climate Center data as of 8:00 a.m.

Temperature and Growing Degree Days: By Location, Nebraska,
Week Ending Sunday, May 18, 2003

Station		Temperature				Growing Degree Days Since April 15		
		Extremes		Average	Departure	Last Week	Current	Normal
		High	Low					
NW	Alliance	85	37	58	3	83	204	262
	Scottsbluff	88	36	61	5	96	259	262
	Sidney	83	38	58	2	79	215	270
NC	Ainsworth	77	38	60	1	82	226	287
	Arthur	80	39	59	1	81	207	285
	O'Neill	75	36	58	-2	72	214	300
NE	Concord	79	37	58	-2	71	242	303
	Elgin	77	42	59	-2	75	227	307
	West Point	79	38	59	-3	77	256	319
C	Grand Island	82	38	60	-1	87	266	314
	Lexington	81	42	61	1	91	273	311
	Ord	78	36	59	-2	82	252	310
EC	Lincoln	81	38	61	-2	89	317	333
	Central City	80	38	60	-1	86	282	316
	Mead	82	39	61	-2	87	297	329
SW	Champion	79	40	59	0	77	249	296
	North Platte	80	37	60	1	89	262	297
	Curtis	82	40	61	1	90	284	303
SC	Arapahoe	82	35	58	0	83	223	283
	Minden	82	42	61	1	91	280	312
	Red Cloud	78	40	60	-1	84	299	317
SE	Beatrice	81	38	61	-3	88	331	333
	Clay Center	78	37	59	-2	83	274	315
	Nemaha	81	44	64	0	99	349	362

Source: High Plains Climate Center.